

# ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Parish of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 23, 15 February 2004 ~

## СРЕТЕНИЕ ГОСПОДА НАШЕГО ИИСУСА ХРИСТА ~ The 'Meeting' of the Lord ~



The feast of *Сретение*, or the *Meeting of the Lord*, is one of the 12 *Great Feasts* of our Church. It is celebrated on 15 February (2 February on the Church calendar). This feast-day calls to remembrance something important that happened in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. We can read about this in the Holy Bible, in the Holy Gospel written by Saint Luke, chapter 2.

God's law tells us that every new-born child must be brought to church and dedicated to Him. This takes place when the baby is 40 days old. Our Lord Jesus Christ also fulfilled this law. When He was 40 days old, His Mother and the Righteous Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him to God.

Two very old and righteous people were there: a man called Simeon and a woman called Anna. God had promised Saint Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour, the special person that God would send to save His people from sin and death. The Holy Tradition of our Church tells us that Saint Simeon was 270 years old! He had once been translating the Bible, and had asked God to help

him understand what it meant when it said in the book of Isaiah that a Virgin would have a child. God promised Symeon that he would live to see this.

As soon as the baby Jesus was brought into the temple, Saint Symeon and Saint Anna knew that he was the Saviour promised by God. When Saint Symeon saw the baby Jesus, He said, "Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me. With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people, and foreign nations will also see this. Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honour to your people Israel" (Luke 2: 29-32).

We read Saint Symeon's prayer in church at every evening service, and whenever we say the prayers of thanksgiving after having Holy Communion. In Slavonic, the language that we use in Church, Saint Symeon's prayer is:

«Ныне отпущаеши раба Твоего, Владико, по глаголу Твоему с миромъ: яко видеста очи мои спасение Твое, еже еси уготовалъ предъ лицемъ всехъ людей, светъ во откровение языковъ, и славу людей Твоихъ Израиля.»

The Mother of God and Joseph were very surprised when they heard Saint Symeon say this. He blessed them and told them that the baby Jesus was a very special baby. He said that many people would love Him, but also that many people would hate Him. He told the Mother of God that she would one day be very sad because of Jesus.

Saint Anna was 84 years old. She had once been married, but her husband had died after only 7 years of marriage. Now she lived in the temple and prayed and fasted day and night. She spoke to everyone and told them all how special a baby Jesus was.

Christians have celebrated this feast-day for many hundreds of years, especially in Jerusalem. All Orthodox Christians have celebrated it since the year 542 AD, when the good Christian emperor Justinian the Great decided that it should be celebrated everywhere as a special feast. He decided this because he wanted to thank God for saving the capital city, Constantinople, from a terrible plague.

"Сретение" is an old Slavonic word that means "meeting". This feast-day is called the "meeting" of the Lord because of the meeting of baby Jesus and His Mother with Saints Symeon and Anna.

Something special that happens in many churches on this day is the blessing of candles and fruit. The blessing of candles helps to remind us that our Lord Jesus Christ is "a light for all nations", just as Saint Symeon said.

### **PARISH LIFE: UPDATE ON OUR NEW CHURCH & PARISH CENTRE**

The Parish Council learned with great joy on 5 February that Gosford Council had passed our development application at 4.30pm that day! Building at the parish centre has proceeded at a great pace, with the church now well & truly taking shape under Rick Golovin's able direction. In addition, some necessary changes have been made to the amenities room and a start has been made on the electrical wiring. A beautiful feature of the new church is the 6m high ceiling that arches over the sanctuary and the main body of the church. Although cosier than our present "church" at Narara, there will certainly be plenty of room for all of us. Those interested in progress or wishing to offer assistance are encouraged to talk to Rick.

### **PARISH LIFE: ANOTHER NEW BABY!**

Further evidence of the rapid growth of our parish, which must now have the most babies relative to size of any parish in the Diocese! We have another addition following the birth, on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004, of a baby girl - their second child - to our parishioners George and Alla Karmadonoff. They have named their new daughter Monica, named in honour of the Righteous Monica, the mother of Blessed Augustine. Our warmest congratulations to George, Alla, and big brother Christopher!

### **CHURCH LIFE: "THE VOICE" NEWSPAPER**

"The Voice" is an English-language missionary newspaper that has been produced over the last few years by Hieromonk Joachim of Saint John the Baptist Skete, a small monastic community based in Kentlyn. It now incorporates the English-language edition of the diocesan newspaper "Word of the Church" («Церковное Слово»). A number of copies of the latest issue are available for purchase today at a cost of \$2.00. Articles include the transcript of a lecture from the 2003 Syezd, pictures of Theophany in Russia, a piece about dreams, and much more. Please support Fr Joachim's efforts and purchase a copy.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:**

**The sick & suffering:** Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky, Ioann, Alexander, Nina, Alexandra, child Ksenia

**Special needs:** Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Antonina, Nicholas & family, Ioanna, Daniel

**Families with new babies:** George & Alla Karmadonoff, big brother Christopher & new baby Monica; Vassily (Bill) & Irene Konstantinidis, big brothers Dimitri & Alexander, with new baby Ambrose

**Newly-baptised:** Ambrose (to be christened today!), Alexandra (14/2), Heather (Elizabeth) (18/1)

**Newly-married:** Gregory & Heather (Elizabeth)

Please also remember in your prayers Skye, a young woman from the Central Coast who in late January tragically took her own life, and her grieving family and friends.

### GOSFORD SERVICES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

Note: The services listed below will be at the Narara Community Centre.

29 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Great Lent: The Triumph of Orthodoxy</b> Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Great Lent: Saint Gregory Palamas</b> Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Sunday	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Great Lent: Saint John of the Ladder</b> Divine Liturgy	9.00 am

### NEWCASTLE SERVICES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

21 <sup>st</sup> February	Saturday	All-night vigil	6.00 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Sunday	<b>Cheesfare Sunday - Forgiveness Sunday</b> Divine Liturgy & Vespers, with the rite of asking forgiveness	9.00 am
<b>Beginning of Great Lent</b>			
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Monday	<b>Clean Monday</b> Lenten Matins, Hours, Typica, Vespers	8.00 am
		Great Compline with the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete	7.00 pm
25 <sup>th</sup> February	W'day	<b>Clean Wednesday</b> Great Compline with the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete	7.00 pm
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Saturday	<b>Commemoration of the Departed</b> Liturgy for the departed & general panikhida	8.00 am
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Saturday	All-night vigil with the bringing out of the cross	6.00 pm
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross</b> Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Saturday	<b>Commemoration of the Departed</b> Liturgy for the departed & general panikhida	8.00 am
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Saturday	All-night vigil	6.00 pm
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: Saint Mary of Egypt</b> Divine Liturgy	9.00 am

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 0428-639156 or email him at [fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au](mailto:fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au).